

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please add new claims 11-17 and amend claims 9 and 10 as follows:

9. (currently amended) A ~~polymer~~ synthetic copolymer containing a repeating unit comprising:



wherein

~~A is a nucleic acid binding monomer including positively charged organic monomers~~  
an amine-containing monomer having affinity for nucleic acid via electrostatic interaction;

~~B is a linker selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, cycloaliphatic and aromatic compounds;~~ is an aminoreactive co-monomer; and,

~~C is a chemical bond selected from the group consisting of amide, amidine, disulfide, ether, ester, isothiurea, isourea, sulfonamide, carbamate, carbon-nitrogen double bond, carbon-nitrogen single bond and carbon-nitrogen single bond;~~

~~n is greater than or equal to 2.~~

10. (currently amended) A ~~nucleic acid binding polymer~~ comprising:



wherein

~~A is a nucleic acid binding monomer that includes positively charged organic monomers;~~

~~B is a linker selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, and aromatic compounds;~~

~~C is a chemical bond selected from the group consisting of amide, amidine, disulfide, ether, ester, isothiurea, isourea, sulfonamide, carbamate, carbon-nitrogen double bond, carbon-nitrogen single bond, and carbon-nitrogen single bond; and,~~

~~N is greater than or equal to 2.~~

The polymer of claim 9 wherein the amine-containing monomer consists of a diamine monomer.

11. (new) The polymer of claim 9 wherein the amine-reactive co-monomer consists of a bifunctional amine-reactive co-monomer.
12. (new) The polymer of claim 9 wherein the aminoreactive group of the co-monomer is selected from the list consisting of: succinimide ester, N-hydroxysuccinimide ester, maleimides, imido ester, anhydride, phenyl azide, and aryl halide.
13. (new) The polymer of claim 9 wherein the polymer is able to condense a nucleic acid.
14. (new) The polymer of claim 9 wherein the polymer is formed in the presence of a nucleic acid.
15. (new) The polymer of claim 15 wherein forming the polymer results in condensation of the nucleic acid.
16. (new) The polymer of claim 9 wherein the co-monomer contains a cleavable bond.
17. (new) The polymer of claim 9 wherein the amine monomer contains a cleavable bond.